

Rep. Slaughter Speaks Out Against Alito- November 3, 2005

Rep. Slaughter, Along with Leading Women Members, Speak out on Alito Nomination as Threat to Women's Rights

November 3, 2005

I want to thank you all for coming.

We are here today, as women leaders of the United States Congress, to tell our colleagues in the Senate, as well as the American people...

The President's nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court is a clear and present danger to the rights of women in America.

Judge Alito has espoused "radical" views toward women's rights.

He has written "radical" positions on sexual and workplace discrimination, the family medical leave act, choice issues and civil rights...among others.

An examination of Judge Alito's record shows that on women's rights:

- He has supported the unauthorized and inappropriate search of women and children.
- Alito would make it difficult for women to succeed in the workplace by turning a blind eye to discrimination and sexual harassment.
- Alito ruled to restrict eligibility for the Family Medical Leave Act - leaving hard working women, who are also expected to be family caretakers, unable to tend to sick children or elderly parents.
- If we are to take Mr. Alito's long record as any indication of how he will preside as a justice...there is great cause for concern.
- With Samuel Alito on the Supreme Court, women will be forced to choose between the health of their family or a successful career...this is a choice women should not be forced to make.
- Alito's nomination is a step backward for women in America

On reproductive rights:

- Alito supported abortion restrictions that failed to allow exceptions when a woman's health is in jeopardy.

- Alito has argued that spousal notification for an abortion is constitutional.

Does Judge Alito believe that women not capable of making their own decisions? Are they not a better judge of their relationships than the government?

For most of this country's history, women were treated like second class citizens, incapable of making their own decisions regarding themselves, their children, property, their education and their right to vote.

Women in America, of all races, backgrounds and political affiliations, have fought too hard and come too far to have our progress jeopardized by this nomination.

Judge Alito's views toward women's rights are not only out of the mainstream, I would characterize them as radical.

Based on what we have seen of Judge Alito's record thus far, I have grave concerns for the future of women in this country if Mr. Alito is confirmed.

Alito's nomination literally tips the scales of justice against women on the Supreme Court...

Rather than offering a balanced successor to the moderate views of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and the majority of this nation, the president has chosen someone hostile to the rights of all women.

Today, my colleagues and I stand here to ask that the Senate consider that this lifetime appointment could have destructive, life-long consequences for American women.

Our colleagues in the Senate have a responsibility to ensure that the highest court is not stacked against the hard fought rights that protect women across the country.

